

November 2023

The Right Revd Robert Springett
Bishop of Tewkesbury
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Dear Candidate

Team Vicar in the South Cheltenham Team Ministry with responsibility for St Philip & St James (Pip and Jims) Leckhampton and St Stephen's Tivoli.

I am delighted that you are looking at this exciting post in the Diocese of Gloucester. The South Cheltenham Team Ministry is a positive and engaging benefice with a breadth of church traditions and yet a deeply rooted sense of their unity in the gospel, and the right candidate will find a great sense of 'team' and a warm welcome from clergy and lay colleagues alike.

As you will see from the profile, Pip and Jims has fairly recently completed a bold and imaginative church building reordering, and the development and use of this space as a vehicle for community engagement and mission will be one significant aspect in the next chapter of the life of the worshipping community, as will the challenge to reach out to more of the very significant number of young families in the local community. Pip and Jim's is an inclusive church with, as the profile notes, Sunday morning Holy Communion at the centre of their worship. St Stephen's is a smaller church in nearby Tivoli with a more Anglo-Catholic and yet equally inclusive tradition to that of Pip and Jim's. The worshipping community have sometimes felt 'in the shadow' of their larger neighbour and there is a work of recovery and building confidence in their own identity to be done here.

As you will note from the Context Document, we are as a Diocese currently engaged in an exciting deanery strategic planning process whereby every deanery is working with an external facilitator to shape ministry, mission and the use of resources for the future, approached from a place of confidence and creativity rather than scarcity, and rooted in our vision of 'LIFE Together': www.gloucester.anglican.org/about/vision. This is supported by our Culture and Values for ministry at www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/cultures-and-values-of-ministry. At its heart we want to share 'the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ', so that all people may 'know life in all its fullness.'

In all this Bishop Rachel and I wish to see across the Diocese a church landscape of ever-increasing varied configuration with new worshipping communities emerging in new and

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different ways alongside inherited ministry within parishes. This is a diocese which celebrates pioneer ministry, our schools, chaplaincies and Fresh Expressions of Church, and it has been wonderful to establish a new Church Army Centre for Mission located within Gloucester. Clergy who come to minister in this diocese need to be enthusiastic about being part of this changing landscape.

Ours is also a diocese in which we want clergy to be nurturing people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith among the people and places of their week Sunday to Saturday. We are a diocese which has been strongly committed to implementing the recommendations of the 'Setting God's People Free' report, and are actively involved in 'Growing Faith'.

As we live this time of continued uncertainty across our country and world, it is important to underline that as a diocese we are living from a place of confidence, security and hope, and there is a deep commitment to the wellbeing of all our clergy. Furthermore, we are small enough to know each other well, to care across our traditions and rejoice in each other's gifts, while at the same time being large enough to be well resourced. You will find good support for your ministry from a dedicated team. Bishop Rachel and I seek to know and be known by our clergy and place a high value on engaging with communities across the diocese and building positive networks of relationship.

If you have any questions or want to know more please do not hesitate to contact the contact the Team Rector, the Revd Gary Grady, on 07713 654074 or the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, the Ven Phil Andrew on 07498 052045 (email archdchelt@glosdioc.org.uk). Applications should be returned to Debbie Long, PA to the Archdeacon of Cheltenham DLong@glosdioc.org.uk or by post to The Bishop's Office, 2 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR by 10am on 11 December 2023. Interviews will be held in the Benefice on 16 January 2024.

With all good wishes and thanks

+ Robert Tewkesbury.

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